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ACTION / DISTR						
CJCS	J-6	MCEB	PA	H&E	CIA	NSA
DJS	NMCC	USRMCLO	DDRE	ASD:PA&E	CSA	RF:MCB
SJCS	NMCCDDO	SECDEF	ARPA	DTACCS	CNO	FILE (1)
J-1	JRC	ADM	COMP	WSEG	CSAF	
J-3	NWSB	ISA	LA	W/H	CMC	
J-4		I/L	AE	STATE	NSC	
J-5	SAGA	G/C	M/RA	DIA	NIC	TOTAL

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ACTION
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CJCS(04) DJS(03) J3(14) J5(02) NMCC SECDEF(07) ASD:ISA(10)
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- CNO WASH DC
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TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASH DC
INFO RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC
RUCBSAA/CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA
RULYVGA/USCOMSOLANT
RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS
(b)(3):10 USC 424
RUEBARA/COMNAVINTCOM ALEX VA
(b)(3):10 USC 424
RULBSAA/USNAVSTA RODMAN
(b)(3):10 USC 424
RUCBSAA/FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
BT
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~/~~NOFORN~~ 0293 APR 77
SUBJ: THIS IS IR (b)(3):10 USC 424
1. CHILE (CI), BRAZIL (BR), ARGENTINA (AR), URUGUAY (UY)
2. (b)(3):10 USC 424
3. (U) MILITARY AFFAIRS, GENERAL - UNITAS XVIII
4. N/A
5. 770419
6. 770419
7. 770419, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
8. INITIATIVE (b)(3):10 USC 424 182122ZAPR77 NOTAL
9. (b)(3):10 USC 424
10. (b)(3):10 USC 424

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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SJCS	NMCCDDO	SECDEF	ARPA	DTACCS	CNO	FILE (1)
J-1	JRC	ADM	COMP	WSEG	CSAF	
J-3	NWSB	ISA	LA	W/H	CMC	
J-4		I/L	AE	STATE	NSC	
J-5	SAGA	G/C	M/RA	DIA	NIC	TOTAL

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11. NO

12. (b)(3):10 USC 424

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15. ~~DIRET NOI NOFORN TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO HOST GOVT~~

16. SUMMARY: (U) THIS IR FORWARDS INFORMATION ON ARGENTINA'S PARTICIPATION IN UNITAS XVIII.

2. DETAILS: ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ SOURCES Sec. 3.3(b) (1) THERE ARE PROBLEMS BREWING ON THE UPCOMING UNITAS OPERATION. ONE SOURCE STATED THAT THE COUNTRIES OF URUGUAY, CHILE, ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL HAVE AGREED THAT IF ONE OF THESE COUNTRIES DECIDES NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN UNITAS XVIII, ALL THE REST WILL COLLECTIVELY CANCEL. IN ARGENTINA, THE ARMY, SUPPORTED BY THE AIR FORCE, FEELS THAT UNITAS IS MORE OF A POLITICAL EXERCISE AND IS AGAINST PARTICIPATION WHILE THE NAVY VIEWS IT AS STRICTLY MILITARY, I.E., A NAVY-TO-NAVY OPERATION. THE SUPREME POWER OF THE COUNTRY, THE JUNTA, COMPRISED OF THE THREE SERVICE CHIEFS WILL HAVE TO MAKE THE FINAL DECISION. THE DECISION SHOULD BE FORTHCOMING THIS WEEK. ONE SOURCE STATES THAT ADM MASSERA, THE NAVY CHIEF JUNTA MEMBER, WILL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO PREVAIL OVER THE OTHER MEMBERS IN SEEING THAT ARGENTINA PARTICIPATES IN UNITAS XVIII. HOWEVER, ANOTHER COUNTRY'S CANCELLATION WILL HAVE A BINDING EFFECT ON THIS COUNTRY. THE ARGENTINE NAVY STAFF FAVORS CONTINUING UNITAS OPERATIONS BUT STATE THAT THEY PREFER IT TO BE CONDUCTED EVERY TWO YEARS. PLANNING AND PREPARATION WILL CONTINUE FOR THIS YEAR'S UNITAS UNTIL A POLITICAL DECISION BY THE JUNTA INDICATES OTHERWISE. SOURCES HERE ARE VAGUE ON WHICH COUNTRY IS PUSHING FOR THE CANCELLATION. ONE SOURCE WAS ASKED IF IT WAS BRAZIL; HIS REPLY WAS NO. WHEN ASKED IF IT WAS ARGENTINA OR ONE OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES HE WAS VAGUE AND DID NOT REPLY. SOURCE ENDED, STATING THAT THE UNITAS BAND CAUSES CONSIDERABLE CONCERN SECURITY-WISE TO THE ARGENTINE MILITARY.

(b)(3):10 USC 424 COMMENT: ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ WHETHER MASSERA CAN PREVAIL OVER THE OTHER TWO JUNTA MEMBERS ON HIS DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN UNITAS IS QUESTIONABLE. HIS POWER OVER THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE IS NOT AS STRONG AS IT ONCE WAS IN THE INITIAL STAGES OF THE MILITARY TAKEOVER. VIDELA, WITH AGOSTI'S SUPPORT, VIEWING THE WHOLE OPERATION AS A POLITICAL ONE, MAY FORCE THE CANCELLATION OF UNITAS XVIII. THIS ATTITUDE UNDOUBTEDLY IS BASED ON THE US POSITION TOWARD ARGENTINA REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES AND MILITARY AID.

THIS MSG HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY.

~~XGDS 2~~

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